

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of any changes to the claims and the remarks herein. Please contact the undersigned to conduct a telephone interview in accordance with MPEP 713.01 to resolve any remaining requirements and/or issues prior to sending another Office Action. Relevant portions of MPEP 713.01 are included on the signature page of this amendment.

Applicants' Reply to the Examiner's

Response to Arguments

At page 4 of the Referenced Final rejection

3. The Examiner states "Applicant's arguments filed June 4, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive." The Examiner quotes applicants June 4, 2007 arguments stating:

a) The applicants argue: *"The Examiner does not identify where in the teaching of Okubo elements 30 thereof is referred to as "flexible." Thus the Examiner has not made out a prima facie case of anticipation. Also Fig. 1 of Okubo does not show elements 30 extending away from a surface of element 10. Applicants' claim 41 recites "said elongated electrical conductors having a first end affixed to said surface" and recites "elongated electrical conductors extending away from said surface." Okubo Fig. 1 does not teach this as shown in this figure commenting on Okubo Fig 1."*

The Examiner states:

With regards to elements 30, claim 41 states: "...a substrate having a surface... a plurality of elongated electrical conductors

extending away from said surface..." Element 30 is connected to the top surface of board 10, which represents the substrate, by way of end 33. As shown in Fig. 1, element 30 extends downward toward IC chip 60. Base on the figure one of ordinary skill in the art may conclude that the element 30 is extending away from the top surface of board 10. Therefore, the examiner believes the prior art still reads on the claim.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's view that "the prior art still reads on the claim" means that the claim is anticipated by the cited reference. Moreover, it is applicant's position that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be of the view that the Examiner's interpretation of "extending away from said surface" is a reasonable interpretation in view of applicants' teaching.

The Examiner quotes applicants June 4, 2007 arguments stating:

b) The applicants further argue: *"Okubo shows expanded views in Fig. 2 (a) and Fig. 2(b) of ends(32) in element 50. Element 50 does not comprise openings larger in size than the elongated electrical conductors. In fact Fig. 2(a) and 2(b) of Okubo show element 50 having openings that are the same size as the conductors 30 which result in ends 32 being in a fixed position and not in "substantially fixed positions" as recited in applicants claim 41."*

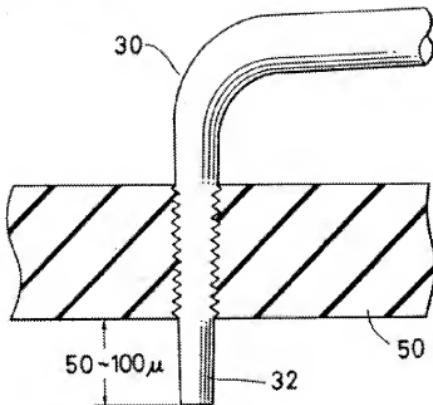
The Examiner states:

In response to the above, the examiner disagrees. The opening of element 50 of Okubo could not be the same size to element 30. If both are the same size, then element 30 should not be inserted through element 50 to test the DUT on top of IC chip 60. Therefore, the opening in element 50 is slightly larger for element 30 to fit through for its intended purpose. Therefore, the examiner believes the prior art still reads on the claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that this statement is not supported by the teaching of Okubo. Applicants will illustrate this by use of Okubo Fig. 2(a). The same argument applies to Okubo Fig. 2(b).

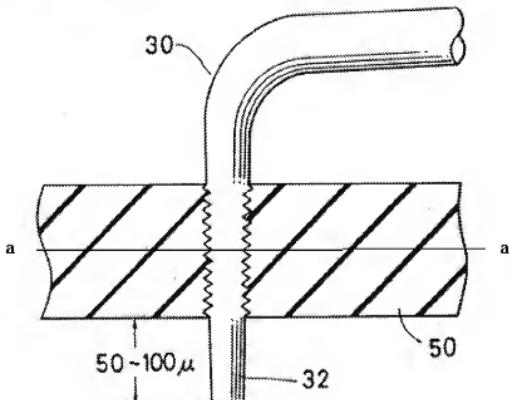
Okubo Fig. 2(a) is

Fig. 2(a)

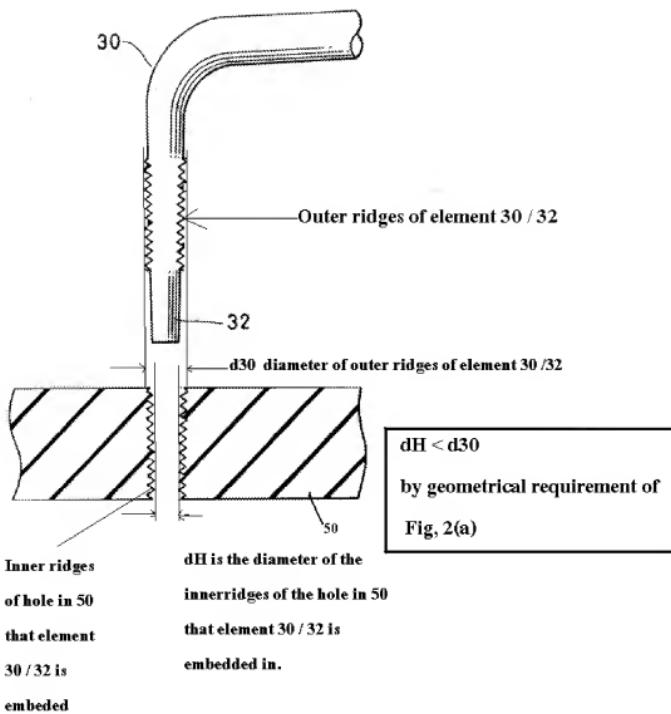


In Okubo Fig 2(a) and 2(b) element 30 / 32 is embedded in material 50. Thus material 50 is butted up against the outside surface of element 30 / 32. Therefore, the diameter of 30 / 32 along a line a—a in the Figure below is the same as the diameter of the hole in element 50 in which element 30 / 32 is embedded.

Fig. 2(a)



In the Figure below Okubo Fig. 2(a) is separated into parts. Element 30/ 32 is shown above the hole in 50 that element 30 / 32 is embedded. It is clear from the figure below that the diameter, d_{30} , of the outer ridges of element 30 / 32 is larger than the diameter, d_H , of the inner ridges of the hole in 50 that the element 30 / 32 is embedded, i.e. $d_{30} > d_H$. Thus element 30 / 32 cannot be inserted through element 50 as claimed by the Examiner. Thus Okubo cannot anticipate applicants' claims. An attempt to insert element 30 / 32 into the hole in 50 will result in the ridges on element 30 / 32 being obstructed by the ridges on the hole in 50, thereby preventing element 30 / 32 from being inserted into the hole in 50.



In view of the remarks herein applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 7,10,41-43, 49, 51, 58-60 and 64-68 as being anticipate by Okubo et al under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) (5134365) be withdrawn.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper and any previous paper to deposit account 09-0468.

If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

In the event that this amendment does not result in allowance of all such claims, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

MPEP 713.01 states in part as follows:

Where the response to a first complete action includes a request for an interview or a telephone consultation to be initiated by the examiner, ... the examiner, as soon as he or she has considered the effect of the response, should grant such request if it appears that the interview or consultation would result in expediting the case to a final action.

Respectfully submitted,

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